

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04068 091434Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 TRSE-00 /096 W
-----091442Z 001778 /53

O R 091255Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7071
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSNAVEUR
EUCOM
COMSIXTHTOOM
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
SECDEF WASHDC
CTF SIX SEVEN
CTF SIX NINE
CTF SIX ZERO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

UNCLAS TUNIS 4068

CINCUSNAVEUR AND EUCOM FOR POLADS; USDOCOSOUTH PASS
CINCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 04068 091434Z

TAGS: PFOR PLOS ENRG TS LY
SUBJ: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN TALKS OPEN IN TUNIS JUNE 8

REF: TUNIS 4032

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 9 PRESS GAVE HEAVEY COVERAGE TO JUNE 8 IPENING
OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN TALKS OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE.

MEDIA REPORTED ON MEETINGS IN VERY FAVORABLE AND HOEPFUL TERMS BUT GAVE NO DETAILS OF ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY L'ACTION AND GOT-CONTROLLED DAILY LA PRESSE QUOTED STATEMENTS BY GOT FONMIN HABIB CHATTY AND LIBYAN FONMIN ALI ABDESSALEM TURAYKI THAT EMPHASIZED CORDIAL AND SERIOUS CLIMATE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD RIADH WAS ALSO QUOTED IN PRESS EXPRESSING HIS HAPPINESS AT TAKING PART IN THE TALKS, "THANKS TO THE WISDOM OF PRESIDENTS BOURGUIBA AND QADHAFI." HE SAID THE TUNIS MEETINGS COULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF UNDERSTANDING AND BROTHERLY RELATIONS THAT WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE ARAB WORLD. NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN IN PRESS HOWEVER OF SPECIFIC ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION OR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE DISPUTE WHICH MIGHT RESULT.

3. IN CHATTY'S STATEMENT, HE REITERATED GOT VIEW THAT QADHAFI'S JUNE 2 SPEECH HAD OFFERED BASIS TO BOURGUIBA TO INITIATE NEW TALKS. HE ALSO SAID "OUR DUTY IS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND FRATERNITY." TURAYKI'S STATEMENT IN PRESS EMPHASIZED THAT DISPUTES BETWEEN TUNISIA AND LIBYA ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE SINCE THERE IS "MUCH MORE THAT UNITES OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAN SEPARATES THEM." HE SAID HE BLIEVED THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE.

4. PSD ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY AL AMAL EDITORIALIZED ON THE TALKS, FOLLOWING GENERAL GOT LINE THAT THEY ARE CORDIAL AND LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE. AL AMAL COMMENTED THAT THIS IS THE "FIRST" OCCASION THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE HAS ACTED POSITIVELY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TUNIS 04068 091434Z

A DISPUTE BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES AND SAID THAT THIS EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE FOLLOWED IN OTHER DISPUTES.

5. SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILY LE TEMPS EDITORIALIZED AS WELL ON THE TALKS. IT WAS PLEASED AT THE POSITIVE CLIMATE AND LINKED THE APPARENT IMPROVEMENT IN TUNISIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS TO THE NEED OF ARAB COUNTRIES TO CLOSE RANKS AND CONFRONT "ISRAELI HEGEMONY" THAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACCENTUATED IN THE VICTORY OF LIKUD.

6. PRESS GAVE COMPOSITION OF LIBYAN, TUNISIAN AND ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATIONS TO TALKS. BOTH TUNISIAN AND LIBYAN TEAMS HAVE STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL LEVELS AND PETROLEUM SECTOR LEADERSHIP, INDICTING THAT TALKS ARE DEALING WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS OF BOUNDARY DELINEATION AND PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT.

7. 1:00 P.M. RADIO NEWS GAVE NO NEW DETAILS N PROGRESS OF TALKS AND MENTIONED ONLY THAT PRESENT BOURGUIBA HAD RECEIVED PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF TUNISIAN, LIBYAN AND ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATIONS DURING

COURSE OF MORNING.
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Disposition History: n/a
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